THE TRIPLE CROWN --- THE PREAKNESS 1978
(INSERTS IN LIBRARY)

(EDITORS: FOR BROADCAST PRIOR TO THE RUNNING OF
THE PREAKNESS, MAY 20TH.)

ANNCR: TO MOST AMERICANS, SPRING CAN BE THE HARBINGER OF MANY

THINGS ... BEACHES, BASEBALL AND VACATIONS. BUT TO HORSE

RACING FANS, A VERY SPECIAL BREED, SPRING CAN ONLY MEAN THE

ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE THREE RACES KNOWN AS TRIPLE CROWN ...

THE KENTUCKY DERBY, THE PREAKNESS AND THE BELMONT.

HERE, NOW, WITH A PREVIEW OF THE 1978 PREAKNESS, THE MIDDLE

JEWEL OF THE TRIPLE CROWN, IS VOA'S ----------------.

VOICE: A WEEK AGO THIS PAST SATURDAY, A HANDSOME CHESTNUT HORSE

NAMED AFFIRMED WITH HIS 18 YEAR OLD JOCKEY, STEVIE CAUTHEN,

URGING HIM ON, EARNED THE FIRST JEWEL OF THE 1978 TRIPLE

CROWN, BY WINNING THE 104TH KENTUCKY DERBY BY ONE AND ONE-

HALF LENGTHS. HIS LONG-TIME RIVAL, ALYDAR, COMING FROM FAR

BACK, CLOSED FOR A RUSH TO BE SECOND.

AMERICAN TURF HISTORIANS CAN NOT RECALL A RIVALRY BETWEEN

TWO THREE-YEAR-OLDS TO EQUAL THAT BETWEEN AFFIRMED AND ALYDAR.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- SICILIANO

"THAT'S CORRECT. THESE TWO HORSES HAVE BEEN AT IT SINCE THE
MIDDLE OF LAST SUMMER. THEY WENT AGAINST EACH OTHER SIX
TIMES LAST YEAR AND AFFIRMED WON FOUR TIMES. (ALYDAR WON
TWICE). THREE FINISHES WERE JUST A HEAD, OR A NECK, OR A
LENGTH AND-ONE-HALF APART. THEY AVOIDED EACH OTHER IN 1978,
DURING THEIR THREE-YEAR-OLD SEASON, UNTIL THEY MET IN THE
KENTUCKY DERBY. IT WAS A PRETTY GOOD DUEL THERE TOO, EXCEPT
THAT ALYDAR STARTED A LITTLE LATE, AND WAS A LITTLE TOO FAR
BACK IN THE BACKSTRETCH AT THE HEAD OF THE TURN. BUT, HE
MADE A GOOD RUN IN THE STRETCH. IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S STILL
CAPABLE OF BEATING AFFIRMED.   SO, WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS
IN THE PREAKNESS."

VOICE: SAM SICILIANO, PRESS CHIEF FOR THE PIMLICO RACE COURSE, IN

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, HOME OF THE PREAKNESS. AND LIKE ALL

GOOD PUBLICITY MEN, SAM SICILIANO BELIEVES EACH ENSUING

PREAKNESS TO BE THE BEST EVER.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- SICILIANO

"WE HAD A RECORD CROWD LAST YEAR OF 77-THOUSAND PLUS. WITH
GOOD WEATHER, A SUN SHINY, NICE, WARM DAY, WE WILL GET 80
THOUSAND WITHOUT A DOUBT --- MAYBE 85. THAT WILL BE A
RECORD CROWD FOR US."

DITOR: THE PREAKNESS HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT.

AS A MATTER OF COURSE, WEST EUROPEAN SPORTS WRITERS AND

REPORTERS COME EACH YEAR TO PIMLICO RACE COURSE TO COVER THE

PREAKNESS. NOW, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO MISTER SICILIANO,

INTEREST IN THIS HORSE RACE HAS SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SICILIANO

"JAPAN HAS SENT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THIS YEAR. THEY'RE GOING
TO TAKE FILMS OF THE RACE ... A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER AND A
JAPANESE TELEVISION STATION. THEY'RE TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES.
WE HAD A GROUP FROM NEW ZEALAND. CANADA, OF COURSE, IS
ALWAYS HERE. WE HAVE PUERTO RICO. WE HAVE MEXICO, AND
WE'VE HAD VENEZUELA IN THE PAST. SO, THE RACE IS WELL COVERED
BY THE NATIONS THAT HAVE THOROUGHBRED RACING."

DITOR: LAST YEAR, SEATTLE SLEW, BECAME THE TENTH HORSE IN MORE THAN

A CENTURY OF COMPETITION TO WIN THE TRIPLE CROWN. IN 1973,

THE GREAT HORSE SECRETARIAT WON ALL THREE RACES, THE KENTUCKY

DERBY, THE PREAKNESS AND THE BELMONT, TO BECOME THE NINTH

HORSE TO EARN THE TRIPLE CROWN. TO FIND HORSE NUMBER EIGHT,

ONE MUST GO BACK TWENTY-FIVE YEARS TO A HORSE NAMED CITATION.

NATURALLY, THE QUESTION UPPERMOST IN THE MINDS OF THOROUGHBRED

FOLLOWERS IS THIS ... CAN AFFIRMED, WINNER OF THE 1978

KENTUCKY DERBY, BECOME THE 11TH WINNER OF THE TRIPLE CROWN?

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- SICILIANO

"WELL, IF YOU LISTEN TO LAZ BARRERA, LAZ BARRERA IS THE
TRAINER OF AFFIRMED, HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT THERE'S ANYTHING
RUNNING TODAY THAT CAN BEAT AFFIRMED. HE SAYS THAT
AFFIRMED RUNS ONLY AS FAST AS HE HAS TO. HE COULD BREAK A
TRACK RECORD IF HE HAD A HORSE THAT COULD MAKE HIM RUN
FASTER. ACTUALLY, THERE'S ONLY ONE HORSE THAT WE THINK AT
THE PRESENT TIME, ALYDAR, WHO COULD KEEP AFFIRMED FROM WINNING
THE TRIPLE CROWN.   IF ALYDAR DOESN'T DO IT, IT LOOKS LIKE
AFFIRMED CAN WIN THE TRIPLE CROWN. AND, BARRERA BELIEVES
HE'LL DO IT."

ANNCR: YOU HAVE JUST HEARD VOA'S PREVIEW OF THE PREAKNESS, THE MIDDLE

JEWEL OF THE TRIPLE CROWN. YOUR HOST WAS ------------, AND

THIS IS -------------.

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                                          RK/RTD